



**Press Release 28/07/2009**

## **The CTIC Foundation organizes the 1st Internacional Congress on Children in ICT**

- **Studies show that parents have different perceptions on the dangers of Internet and Social Networks.**
- **50% of young people share private information with unknown people, 10% have had their mail or Messenger password stolen, and 5.9% have suffered cyber bullying.**

**Gijón, 28nd July 2009.-**

The CTIC Foundation will organize the **First International Congress on Children in ICT** under the theme "Educating for a safer Internet" , in Gijon on the 27th and 28th of October.

This initiative by CTIC responds to the social demand arising from the new risks detected for children from the massive and natural use of rapidly evolving technological tools. It is financed by the Government of the Principality of Asturias which supports the implementation of safe technological tools within the framework of the project Internet and the Family ([www.internetyfamilia.es](http://www.internetyfamilia.es)), and whose objective is to promote the safe use of technology with regards to children and adolescents as well as counting on the participation of educators, the family and the media.

Recent studies have revealed that parents and children pick up on ICT in different ways. Children in general pick up on ICT in a more natural way. They do not only look for a service, but are "present" in the Internet and they use it to study, chat or listen to music. Internet is a basic tool for social relations and identity. 75% of children maintain that they like internet "a lot or much more than other things" according to data in the Study last month by the National Institute for Technologies of Communication (INTECO) about safe habits in the use of ICT by children and adolescents and e- confidence by their parents.

The study also revealed that adults use the Internet for a specific purpose, whether it be a banking transaction, buying online, the news, or participation in a forum. It means usefulness-purpose; adults use internet for "something".

The different mentality of picking up on technologies also means there is a different perception of the risks involved. According to the same study, the main risks for children are addiction and improper use; the damage to property rights through illegal copying; access to inappropriate contents; stalking by other people and /or cyber bullying; grooming or sexual harassment; economic risks and /or fraud as well as technical risks and/or malware.

With regards to the use of social networks on line the study reveals that 75% of the parents are worried that their children may be the victims of grooming or sexual harassment by adults. Only 21% of the parents know the active risks of cyber bullying, in



contrast to 34% of children. This harassment among children has a direct incidence among interviewed children 5,9% in the cases of suffering cyber bullying (passive) and 2,9% in other cases. Similar studies reveal that 10,8% of children have had their Messenger or mail password stolen. Or that 50% of young people between 15 and 25 have shared personal information with strangers and almost 30% have made arrangements to meet them.

The analysis and reflections together with all the other elements involved in the process education experts, media, and society in general to give children a safer network will be one of the objectives of this first Congress of Children in ICT. The experts from the UK, Canada, Holland, Dominican Republic, the US and others from International Organizations such as UNICEF EU Kids Online, and Spanish entities such as Red.es, PantallasAmigas, National Data Protection Agency, and the National Police Force will work together to create a space for debate and cooperation around the detection and development of innovative solutions which will lead to coordinated work.

The Congress will be organized around 5 Roundtables dedicated to “ **Magnitude , perception and evolution of risks**” to know the significant indicators and most relevant data of studies carried out as well as the tendencies in the use of the Internet and online technologies and which include mobile telephones and video games. The second one, “ **Responsibilities and challenges regarding children online protection**” will work in detail on the dangers of the Internet as well as the role played by the interveners, as well as cyber bullying, grooming and lack of privacy. The third one “ **Preventive Strategies**” will deal with the development of a new framework in which rights may be developed without risks.

The fourth will deal with “ **Experiences and initiatives by Spanish Regional Governments**” and the fifth will focus on “ **Identification of action protocols in school and family life; experiences and good practices**”.

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